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TALKING POINTS
HUMAN RIGHTS

(Deputy Secretary's Trip to Belgrade/CSCE and Bilateral)

-- The realization of all commitments in Principle VII and Basket III, like the entire Final Act, is a long-term process, and we believe all signatories understand this and will remain involved in CSCE to find pathways to implementing the Helsinki accords.

-- No one state has a monopoly on defining human rights, yet we have jointly agreed to ambitious, complex Basket III undertakings which provide a common definition of specific steps governments have said they can take to improve the daily lives of our respective populations.

-- We do not believe any CSCE signatory has adopted a completely cynical view towards compliance to the Helsinki Final Act. Yet many, such as my country, believe that their institutions of government, their government policies, and the domestic dialogue between government and citizen generally meet the spirit and letter of Principle VII and Basket III.

-- This does not preclude alternative approaches to meeting Principle VII or Basket III standards. Many CSCE states have different social or political systems, and they are bound to develop varying solutions to the difficult challenges set down by the Helsinki accords.

-- Nevertheless, we view our advocacy for greater sensitivity by all CSCE governments to human rights not as a subterfuge to create political instability in other countries but the basis for generating greater domestic respect in all CSCE states for the institution of governments as they presently exist, and hence greater stability and security on the European Continent and across the Atlantic.

-- Let us lay to rest, once and for all, this unnecessary fear of polemics at the Fall conference. None of us wants this, we have avoided it at the Preparatory Conference, and we will do the same again this Fall.

-- We can and should discuss our concepts of human rights, and our Principle VII/Basket III commitments, with a frank recognition that there are differences in approach and accomplishment. Still, we may be surprised this Fall to find enough common ground to convince all CSCE participants that more progress in implementing the human rights and other Basket III provisions is indeed possible and to our mutual benefit as well.

-- The United States believes the bilateral channel has

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been a proper, effective forum for exchanges of views on specific concerns with implementation of the Final Act, and on what governments specifically might do to implement individual Basket III provisions. We will continue this particular dialogue before and after the Conference.

-- The U.S. record of compliance is not perfect. We feel we can take some satisfaction from the fact that, at home, our own press and citizenry, more than the expressions of other CSCE governments, provide an accurate, open, and often quite critical assessment of federal, state and local government successes and failures.

-- We agree with other CSCE participants, though, that the real test of Helsinki commitment is what we as a government do to improve matters. This is a common challenge for all CSCE signatories, and we will be receptive to suggestions as to how the United States can do better.

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